

VOX POP

05.01.2005

ISSUE 05

Man up: Fight the Good Fight – p. 3

Oppression in Uganda – p. 7

Calling All Actors – p. 10

Joy, Heartache, Redemption... Mothers

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M MARS HILL CHURCH
meaning
beauty
truth
community

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May 01, 2005

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Cover: Bryan Myss took this picture of Jessica Abrams; turn to page 11 to read her story.

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What is Vox Pop?

Vox Pop, “voice of the people,” is Mars Hill Church’s monthly newspaper. As the 1st century Christian church grew at a supernatural rate, the written word became vital in maintaining communication and community among believers. Not only did the letters of Paul play a huge role in this process, they’re in your Bible. Vox Pop is not your Bible. As Mars Hill continues to grow, however, our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will use our imperfect words to foster love between you and me and Him.



Letters to Vox Pop.

Life on Mars

My husband and I were introduced to Mars Hill about six months ago. We currently live in Bellingham but make the drive down about every other week or so for one of the evening services. I have had the chance to watch a friend of mine, who is now a regular attendee and active member of Mars Hill, surrender everything to Christ. Recently baptized, she has been such an inspiration to me and to my faith—to how alive Jesus is and how much the Word can change a person from the inside out. We love Mars Hill, not for the contemporary design or for how you do things a little differently, but because Mark points people to Christ. Every time we leave a service, we are inspired to read, read, read the Word—and live it! There is no greater joy to be found. I just wanted to commend you, the church staff, elders, Pastor Mark, for following God and listening to Him. It is obvious He is leading you and we love being a part of what He is using you to create. And in the near future, we plan to make Mars Hill our home as well. Thank you for all you do.

Rebekah

Vox Pop,
I heard that Mars Hill doesn’t teach that God requires a tenth, or a tithe, from church members. Why not?

Sincerely, Mo

Great question Mo. Let me take a moment to explain what we teach here at Mars Hill about tithing and giving. God does ask us to give of our money to one’s local church. The concept of tithing is only found in the Old Testament, where an exact percentage—a “tithe”—was prescribed. The New

Welcome to Mars Hill Church

To those who are new, welcome to Mars Hill; if you are a guest at one of our Sunday services, we’d love to know you better. Please take the time to fill out an information card, available in your seat or at the information desk. Drop it in the offering basket during service - if it’s your first time, a little info about who you are is your offering to us - or slip it into one of the triangular information kiosks in the foyer.

Stop by our “Connect Center” – located in the SW lounge just off the main foyer – after any service for a casual introduction to our church community. For more information, sermons, essays and more visit our website at www.marshillchurch.org. If you have additional questions, please email life@marshillchurch.org.

Testament simply refers to “giving.” Rather than prescribing an exact amount, the New Testament speaks to the motives of our hearts. In our world, money is an idol used to bless and glorify ourselves. At Mars Hill, we teach that money is simply a tool owned by God and given to us in order that we may glorify Him with it. We glorify Him by being faithful and righteous with what He has blessed us with. This includes making money honestly, spending it wisely, giving our first fruits to the church for the work of the gospel, taking care of family and blessing others. We’re called as Christians to think beyond ourselves and to use our resources to bless others.

(continued: SEE ‘Giving,’ page 18)

Send your comments, thoughts, questions and ideas to voxpop@marshillchurch.org



Photo by: Erin Silva

A performance during Jericho Junction
See page 10 to read more

Frank and Spank

Men's training camp offers to-the-point spiritual butt-whooping

By Mark Bergin

Some men squirmed uneasily, others reached to scoop their gaping jaws off the wood plank floor. But most listened in captive silence as the Gospel stretched its all-reaching fingers into the most private corners of their lives.

"If you're not married or about to be married, get out of here," said Pastor Mark Driscoll, before launching into a frank and specific tutorial on keeping the marriage bed both pure and pleasurable.

With Genesis and the Song of Solomon as proof texts, Driscoll hacked into prudish misconceptions about Christian sex, rubber-stamping a vision of marital eroticism that put all Heffner-like counterfeits to shame.

In rustic structures dotting the Camp Arnold landscape last year, other Mars Hill elders, deacons and leaders followed Driscoll's lead, unleashing the cannon (sic) of scripture on men of every age and life situation.

Young singles heard instruction on leaving boyhood behind as they pursue a job, a house and a woman. Those already married learned what it means to lay their lives down in service to their wives. Some attended seminars on Gospel, culture and the call to disciple. Others took classes on brewing beer or Bible study. Young boys watched their fathers worship and strangers forged bonds of friendship and accountability.

The overarching message was clear: Man up!

A year later, the time has come for Mars Hill's men to hear that message again.

From May 27 – 29 at Warm Beach Conference Center in Stanwood, this bible-thumping band of cultural revolutionaries will once again challenge the church's men to radically follow the ways and teachings of Jesus Christ. With humor, honesty and grit, they will seek to convey the duty, power and glory of the Christian life.

Jesse Winkler, a prospective elder and lead organizer of the second-annual men's training camp, expects more than double the attendance of last year's event. The new location will allow for around 600, and Winkler expects no need to cap registration.

The weekend plan is similar to that of last year, running from Friday evening through midday Sunday with enough time allotted to make evening church services at Mars Hill.

The bulk of the schedule will go to eating, sleeping and teaching – with occasional bouts of recreation and corporate worship.

"The theme is still Fight the Good Fight," Winkler said. "I'm trying to spring for some Fight the Good Fight t-shirts."

One key difference will be an added focus on intra-cabin relationship building. With a leader assigned to facilitate discussion in each set of bunking quarters, Winkler hopes to eliminate the prospect of newcomers slipping through the cracks and maintaining anonymity.

Whether alcohol will play any additional roll in facilitating relationships remains unknown. The policy of Warm Beach Conference Center allows only for smoke, not drink. Winkler plans to check with camp officials and make the rules clearly known to all attendees beforehand.

"The issue of alcohol should have no impact on what God is going to do with the men of Mars Hill over the weekend," he said, decrying the five-page long discussion over the matter on the members' forum.

Winkler and the elders are much more concerned with men learning their Bible than wetting their whistle. That aim brews with special fervor in the mind of pastor Lief Moi, one of the church's foremost experts on scripture navigation.

"That's just a conviction of mine," Moi said. "How can you give an answer to someone if you don't know the answer? We're commanded to give an answer to everyone." Prompted by such conviction, Moi stood before a sheepish bunch of Mars Hill men at last year's training camp and challenged them to cite chapter and verse for various key biblical passages.

"He called them out and nobody knew," Winkler said. "A lot of people this year have said, 'Hey bring Lief back. We need that again.'"

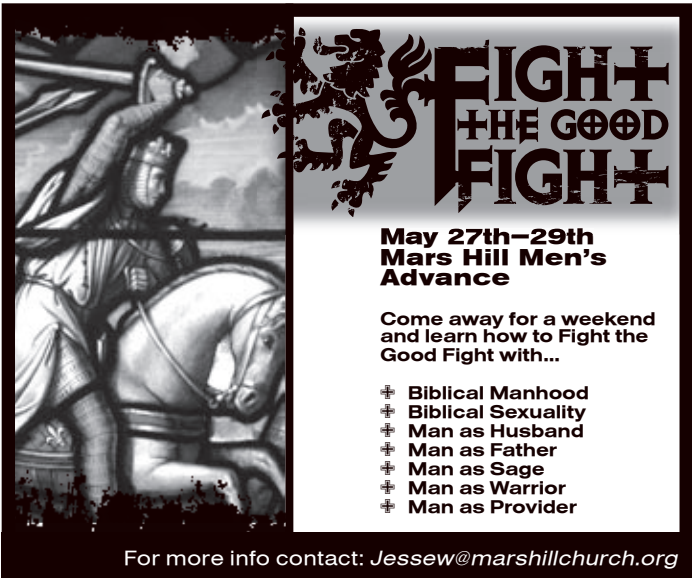
Moi was hardly the only one handing out spiritual butt-whoopings last year. With his usual just-stop-sinning approach to psychology, Driscoll delivered a rousing session on pornography. He detailed the temptations, the implications and the destruction often left in its wake.

Both Moi and Driscoll plan to repeat their seminars this time around. As unleashed as Driscoll may seem in the pulpit, his candor outside mixed company is exceedingly refreshing, sharp and helpful.

"It's guy time," he said. "We can talk guy talk and hit guy issues. We have no problem doing that."

Standing outside his office in early April, the typically quick-witted pastor let his guard down for a moment when asked to articulate the upcoming training camp's focus.

"Oh boy, I should be pithy and insightful," he said, before re-gathering his composure. "I would encourage all the single guys to come and build friendships with the older guys for learning and accountability. Most men's retreats focus on



FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

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Mars Hill Men's Advance**

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and learn how to Fight the
Good Fight with...**

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For more info contact: Jessew@marshillchurch.org

married men, but we've worked really hard to make this accessible for single guys."

Driscoll has a word specifically for those who attended last year's retreat as well. With the rapid growth of the church, a large portion of men at this year's camp will either be unfamiliar with Mars Hill doctrine or unfamiliar with much of Christianity altogether.

"The guys who have been here a while should come to help out the next guy," he said. "Some good brothers who have figured some things out would sure be a help. Those guys should come more to give than to get."

Moi echoed that theme of requiring much from Mars Hill men who have already benefited from the church's teaching. He does not view the burden of ministering to Seattle as a weight resting solely on the elders.

"The opportunity that's been given us in this city is a responsibility that God is going to hold us accountable for—not just the elders but every male of Mars Hill," he said. "God is putting together an army of men who will love their wives, train their children and battle for the Gospel."

That call will leave every man either squirming in his seat or rising from it. ▽

For more information about how to register for Fight the Good Fight, turn to the Bodylife section, page 19.

How to Reach the Heart

Reflections on last month's conference with Dr. Larry Crabb

By Sara Brinton

On Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9, hundreds of people gathered at Mars Hill Church for the Reach the Heart Conference with Christian psychologist and author Dr. Larry Crabb.

How are you?

Can you answer honestly? Or are you terrified that if you told someone how you are truly feeling—or let them see who you really are—they would walk away?

Are you worried that if a friend shared what was really going on in their life, you would not know how to fix their brokenness, or even how to respond?

When we arrived at the Reach the Heart conference on Saturday morning, our baby was crying, my husband was reading about his digital camera and I was frustrated. When Dr. Larry Crabb asked if anyone was willing to join him on the stage to share what was going on in their lives, I was glad I was sitting near the back of the auditorium. If anyone had asked me how I was feeling and I had answered honestly, I would have been ashamed. I was angry, consciously choosing sin rather than God because I felt like I deserved more from Him.

After lunch, I sat down in the lobby with a friend from

my community group and another woman who was visiting Mars Hill from an Acts 29 church in the Midwest. As we talked about our babies, the woman began to share what was really going on in her life. When she revealed how she had been struggling with sin and hiding from the wounds in her heart, my friend and I listened compassionately. We had both lived through similar battles. We prayed and reminded each other that God is sovereign, loving and faithful—even when our lives are a mess.

Walking away from that conversation, I was humbled by my sin and God's willingness to work through me despite my anger earlier. By sharing my own experience of brokenness with this stranger, God had reached her heart—and mine. God always reaches us where we are, not where we pretend to be. Moreover, it is God who reaches our hearts. He does the work. We cooperate with honest response. The clearest evidence that God is reaching our hearts is the discovery of a desire within us that wants to be close to Him more than we want our lives to go well.

Do you want things from God more than you want God Himself?

Dr. Larry Crabb believes that in the center of every redeemed heart, there is a desire to know God. Although we are created to live in relationship with God, sin separates us from our loving Creator. As a result, we are terrified that our longing to know God might never be satisfied and we desperately grasp at fig leaves to cover our sin and hide our brokenness.

Don't bother us with irrelevancies ... Don't waste our time on impracticalities. Tell us what makes us feel better. Don't bore us with obsolete religion. That stuff means nothing to us. Quit hounding us with The Holy of Israel. Isaiah 30:10-11 (The Message)

Like the people of Israel during the time of Isaiah, we often want relevant and practical answers to our deepest questions. Denying the terror in our souls, we fill our lives with food, money, sex, work, counseling and religion. Yet, only when our denial is broken and our defenses shatter will we discover the consuming longing of our heart is to know God.

What is brokenness?

My husband and I have attended a community group that meets in Issaquah on Tuesday nights. Usually about twenty people gather for coffee and

snacks, worship and conversation, study and prayer. Despite hours of discussing Scripture and praying for the practical needs in our lives, we had missed each other's hearts—until last night.

Dan and Tanya shared how recognizing their brokenness and repenting of sin had brought healing to their relationship. Sarah shared how she was struggling to seek God in the midst of her busy life. Ken shared how he had experienced a season of spiritual brokenness when he was sick in January and Clint revealed that, even though he used to be a youth pastor, for several years he had felt far away from God.

Sheila asked “what is brokenness?” She had grown up in the Catholic Church and was just beginning to experience a relationship with God. She was learning that repentance was more than going to confession and going through the motions to be forgiven, and she had a lot of questions. As a group, we were thankful that we had not missed her story and we now had opportunity to walk with her on her journey.

As others shared what was truly going on in their lives, I knew I needed to be real. I felt like God was asking me to pray for brokenness—to be willing to let go of everything in my life except for Him. But I realized that I was terrified of being broken. Would I still believe that God was good if He stripped me of the things, other than Him, that I treasured most?

According to Dr. Crabb, brokenness allows God deeper into our hearts, where the Spirit can reveal Christ's love in us and the Father's love to us. Brokenness leads to repentance and repentance frees us to trust God. When we trust God more than we trust the things in our lives, we become abandoned to Christ. Once we desire God more than anything else, we are released to be the people God created us to be. As God's people, we are equipped to walk with others through this cycle of spiritual formation together—to reach each other's hearts. ▽

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly. Matthew 11:28-30 (The Message)

Additional Resources

Several of Larry Crabb's books, including Connecting, SoulTalk, and The Silence of Adam are available at the Mars Hill Book Table

Check out an excerpt from SoulTalk on page 5.

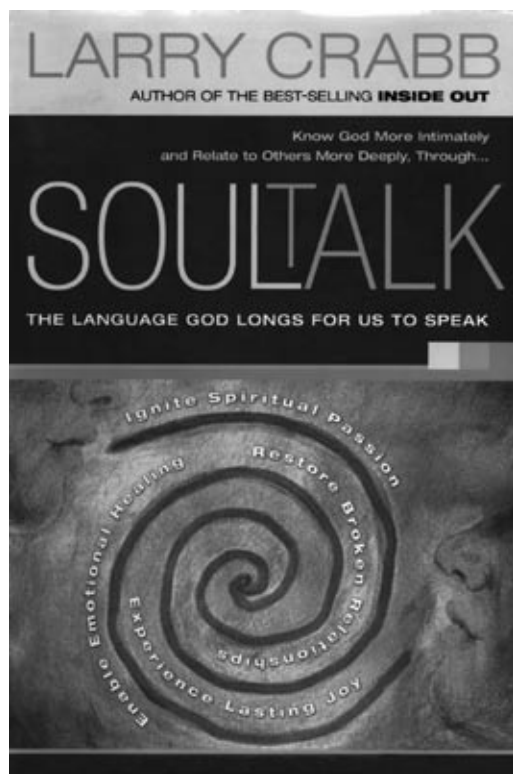
Photo By: Mark Brinton



Recognizing Religion as the Enemy

by Dr. Larry Crabb

Editor's note: the following is an excerpt from chapter six of Dr. Crabb's book, SoulTalk, available at the Mars Hill book table. Dr. Crabb spoke at Mars Hill April 8 and 9 as part of the Reach the Heart conference (see page 4).



Religion is the invention of the devil. The world has taken out the patent. We humans have mortgaged our souls to buy the product, and we think we've gotten a good deal. "Religion is the most dangerous energy source known to humankind," says Eugene Peterson in his introduction to the prophecy of Amos in The Message.

In the aftermath of World War II, politicians campaigned on their vision of prosperity: two cars in every garage, a chicken in every pot. Since Eden, the devil's landslide victory—he's won every vote but one—has been carried by the slogan "Religion in every soul." His message was enticing. Live smart. Your life can work. Unlike the politicians, he's produced. Or at least he's made it look as though he has.

Thanks to Satan, we all enter life with a proud, natural passion. It's his legacy to us, through Adam. We want to do something to make our life better. The theology of religion can be expressed in a simple tenet: The effort to harness whatever power is available in the service of whatever goal we value is a right and noble endeavor.

Moral religion, of course, stipulates that the pursuit of our goal must not violate others' pursuit of their goal. More generally, making life better for yourself, and for others if you can, is the idea. That's religion. It leaves narcissism, a core commitment to our own well-being above all other values, firmly in place.

Satan has made good on his platform. Religion, the self-absorbed search for a way to be in control of our own well-being, is now the natural energy in every human soul. And it's killing us. We were made for the spiritual journey. We're walking the religious the religious journey [...] It robs us of joy while promising an overflow. Even when it seems to work, it's wearing us out or puffing us up.

What does Jesus see when he sees into you or me? Once he stood before a large crowd and saw people who were "harassed and helpless" (Matt. 9:36), even though, in all probability, they looked like they had their act together. The words could be translated pressured and weary. Jesus saw a battle raging in their souls, between following Satan and following God. Religion, Satan's invention, was winning. Everyone was working hard to meet whatever requirements they thought were necessary for life to go well, and they were bone-weary with the effort.

Do this! Do that! Protect yourself. Look out for you own well-being. Here's the way to live, to make your kids behave, to make your church grow, to make your depression lift. Be nice to people, be patient and kind. C'mon, you can do it. Get busy! Work harder! Keep trying! You'll get it. And your life will work!

Those were the lyrics to the music the Pharisees played. We sing the same song today, in our families, in our schools, in our businesses, and too often in our churches. Are your kids breaking your heart? Deal with them God's way. Is money a problem? Here are the biblical principles of finances. Lonely? Angry? Irritable? Depressed? Bothered by terrible memories? Let me explain what's going on and how you can fix things. It's all religion.

As I look over the Western church, and as I look into my own heart, I hear the message of religion: Get it reasonably right, and life will go reasonably well. When I follow my religious (versus spiritual) impulses, I either feel smugly confident or angrily defeated. In both cases, pride and fear lay at the center. Either my life is full of wonderful blessings and I believe I have the inside track on God's favor because I'm living acceptably, or things are tough and I'm mad at God because I thought I was doing pretty well and mad at myself for missing the mark.

Reflect on the summary sketch that follows. See if you

can recognize this way of thinking in your own soul.

The god of convenience:

*Get it reasonably right
plus*

The god of cooperation:

*Life will work reasonably well
equals*

*Religion: You can make your life work
in a way that satisfies your soul.*

Notice first that the incentive driving religion is not communion with god; it is the blessings of life. We believe Satan's lie that there really is something to be treasured above knowing God, becoming like Jesus, and abandoning ourselves to the Spirit. Enjoy whatever your experience tells you will bring the richest pleasure to your soul. That's how religion defines life [...]

With the devil, the flesh within us says, "Real life is the enjoyment of blessings in this world, which God (or fate) gives to those who get it right." With Christ, the Spirit within us says, "Real life consists in dependence on God, clinging to him when everything goes wrong, tramping down despair with the weight of the Cross, and waiting on the Spirit to draw us nearer into the Father's heart, doing all that we can to create space for the Spirit to work."

Every follower of Jesus has two sets of desires: the desire to know God and to experience intimate communion with the Trinity, and the desire to hear the specific calling of the Spirit in our life, to be so anchored in hope of eternal joy and to be so in love with Jesus now that we endure every hardship as a privilege and as an opportunity to become more like Christ.

That's in us. It's in me. It's in you. But there's something else: We want this life to go well. We long to feel a certain way; to handle tough situations in commendable fashion; to become a friendly, good, uncomplaining person; to enjoy at least a measure of success in whatever matters to us; to be noticed and wanted; to feel personal value and worth; to experience the pleasure of good family, good friendships, good health, good income, and good ministry; to feel less stress and more peace, less emptiness and more joy.

Both sets of desires are legitimate. We must understand that. Never think of yourself as unspiritual because you hurt over lost blessings and pray fervently for restored blessings. Of course you want to feel good. That's how you were designed by God.

The battle begins when the desire for blessings in life become the ruling passion of our heart. It's happened in all of us, beginning at birth. It's the driving force of religion. You want that? Good! Here's how to get it. And when you get it, you'll experience life.

(continued: SEE 'SoulTalk,' page 7)

How Many Community Group Leaders Does it Take to Screw in a Light Bulb?

By Pastor Mike Wilkerson

You know that light bulb that appears over someone's head the moment he finally "gets it?" Week in and week out, we hear solid biblical teaching on Sundays, and we learn a lot. But do we really "get it?"

James 1:22 says that we should not only be hearers of the word, but also doers. In other words, you don't really "get it" until you "do it."

Community Groups are about taking the Word of God to that next level. They are small groups of 8 to 12 people that meet in homes all over the Seattle region, talking about how the Word of God is changing them as they live it out together. Some groups talk about the same scriptures that we hear preached each Sunday, while others study through another book of the Bible. All of them are on a journey to connect more deeply with God, and with each other. And all of them are led by faithful members of Mars Hill.

So how many Mars Hill members does it take to lead all those groups? Hundreds. You heard me: HUNDREDS!

"Really?" you say. "But we don't have hundreds of groups yet!" Exactly! So what are you waiting for?

Perhaps it's: "But I've never led a group; I'm not sure how to do it." No problem! We can show you how. We have lots of opportunities for you learn, practice, and build your confidence before leading a group of your own, as well as resources for ongoing growth and development.

Or perhaps you're thinking, "Pastor Mark's pretty good at preaching. I don't think I could ever do that in a small group." Good! None of our groups have stages, microphones, or video projectors anyway. They're not for preaching. Nor teaching, if by "teaching" you mean "lecturing." They're about stimulating open and honest dialogue about God's Word and how it changes us. So if you love God and love Scripture, the rest will come with a little practice.

Or maybe you live in a studio apartment and you're thinking, "there's no way I could fit 12 people in here!" Again, no problem! We can find someone who has plenty of room to host your group!

Perhaps you've got a great house for hosting but you aren't ready to lead your own group yet. Great! That guy with the studio apartment is looking for a host!

To find out more about how you can get involved with leading or hosting a Community Group, contact Dave Kraft at davekraft@marshallchurch.org, or call the Mars Hill Church office. 📞

For a list of existing community groups, turn to the Bodylife section, page 17.

is this your church home? find out...
the *gospel* class



do you still have questions about what mars hill believes, or just about the gospel?

join us for this 10-week exploration of our doctrine and mission.

(see events page for details; this class is a prerequisite for church membership and all other capstone classes)

Just Married!

Zack and Julie Hubert

We met on October 6, 2003, at Mona's restaurant by Greenlake. Julie was wearing this cute little hat and I just thought she was adorable; we had a great dinner and discovered many common interests. We jumped right into a dating relationship, but it wasn't the right time so shortly afterwards, Julie broke it off. This was the butterfly-exiting-the-cocoon moment for both of us as our relationship deepened through friendship. Our love blossomed in a way it never could have while we were dating and, a little while later, I met with her dad and asked for his permission to court his wonderful daughter. There were hard times with the passing of Julie's sister, but the common thread throughout the entire experience was God's goodness and faithfulness. One evening, I found myself on one knee at Palace Kitchen asking Julie for her hand in marriage, such joy! We were wed by Zack's long-time friend, Scott Golike, in truly the most perfect wedding. We spent two wonderful weeks in Hawaii and have called a quaint little townhouse in Greenlake our home.

If you're a Mars Hill member with a wedding announcement, please send information and picture to voxpap@marshallchurch.org



[proxy]

Junior High and High School students at Mars Hill

- family
- education
- accountability
- friendship
- service

future men and women

Wednesday nights at the Paradox
(see calendar for dates and times)

SoulTalk

(continued from page 5)

Jesus taught that the core longing of our soul is the desire to know God, not the desire to feel loved, not the desire to experience meaning, not the desire for the pleasures of family, friends, or success, but the passion to know God as high and lifted up and to place ourselves beneath him, resting in his goodness and available for his purposes [...]

Before we shift our attention to the next element in SoulTalk, let's remember a few things.

First, God has not promised us a better life of blessings in this world. Blessings may come to faithful people. They may not come to faithful people. Rain falls on the godly and the ungodly. So does hail. There is no linear relationship between getting it reasonably right and having life go reasonably well. That's the lie of religion.

Second, what Paul called the Old Way of the written code (see Rom. 7:6; Deut. 29:9; and Hebrews 7:18-19) is a weakened and corrupted version of God's Old Covenant with his people. He required absolute perfection, a careful keeping of the entire law, as the condition for deserved blessings. None of us qualified. Religion, as opposed to the Old Covenant, reduces God to a convenient and cooperative deity, makes obedience easy by requiring only what we can do, and then promises a pleasant life if we at least try hard. Get it reasonably right and life will work reasonably well. That's the Old Way. That's religion, and it turns prayer into presumption, worship into negotiation, and obedience into pressure.

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MarsHill Outdoors Golf Classic



Benefit for

agathos
foundation

Saturday, August 27

Golfers, Volunteers & Sponsors are needed

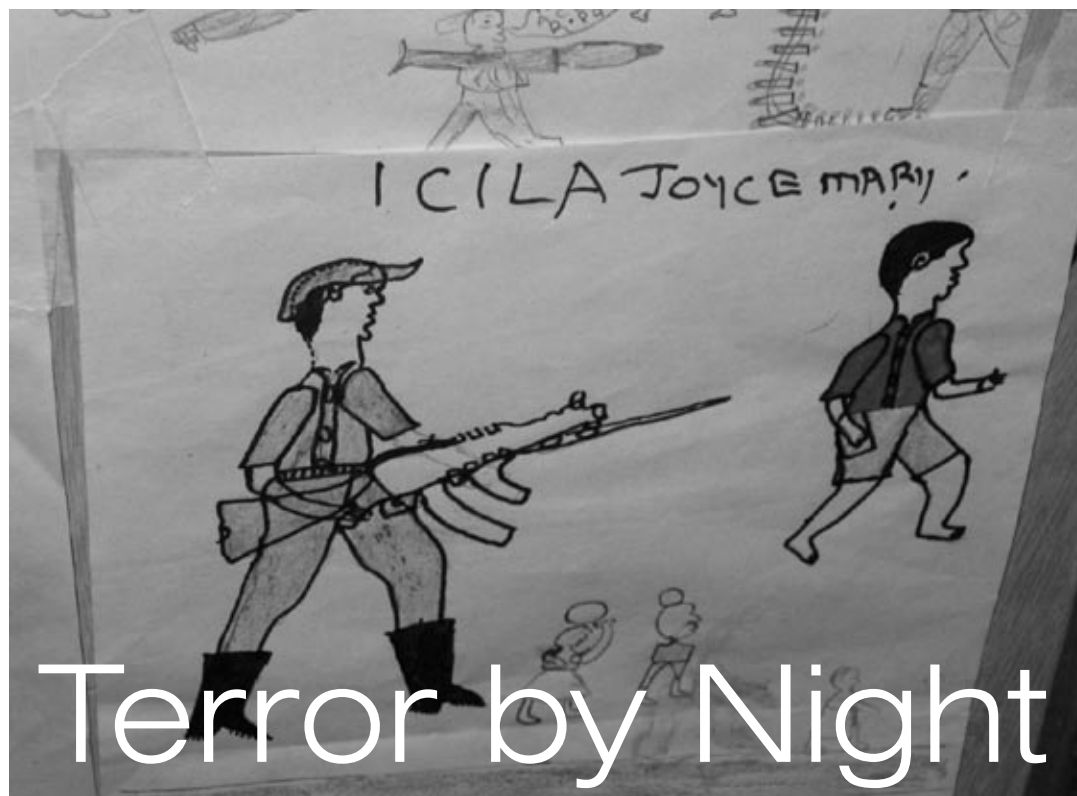
Contact Meilee Lim limmei@gmail.com



DRIVING IN CIRCLES?



Use the parking lot across from 7-11 that Mars Hill rents! It is 2 blocks east and 1 block south of Mars Hill.



Terror by Night

By Joan Wallace

Northern Uganda March 31-April 12, 2005

Editor's note: Northwest Medical Teams (Portland/Bellevue) is a non-profit relief and development organization whose mission is to demonstrate the love of Christ to people affected by disaster, conflict and poverty. Besides a common identification with Jesus, Mars Hill is not affiliated with Northwest Medical Teams. The following account has been edited for print.

Saturday, April 2.

We are en route to Lira, a four-hour drive north of Entebbe, where we arrived after catching a connecting flight from Nairobi, Kenya. I am part of a humanitarian aid mission with Northwest Medical Teams International. Three of us will observe and report on the work, help out where we can, and in 10 days return to our families. Our two medical volunteers will give a month of their lives under the most emotionally and physically oppressive conditions imaginable.

Our hosts are Bob and Carol Higgins, retired school teachers from Oregon and founders of PATH, "Path Africa Takes to Health," in Northern Uganda. NW Medical Teams, a Christian humanitarian aid and development organization, provides medical volunteers, equipment and pharmaceutical supplies to existing non-profits in disaster areas around the

world, like PATH.

The Higgins came to Uganda six years ago to provide lay pastoral training to Ugandan nationals. But the needs were so great, and the love and skills of these two amazing people were so extensive, they eventually made an unimaginable sacrifice: trading the comforts of retirement—and the proximity of children and grandchildren—for permanent residence in Lira. Today, they operate an orphanage, run a mobile medical clinic, oversee construction of clean water sources, are building a school and are developing a generator-powered public health video to be shown while patients wait in line.

So here we are, on the road to Lira, on a typical 96-degree, 100% humidity day. Since Uganda left the umbrella of colonialism in the early sixties, the infrastructure has steadily eroded. A railroad once traversed the country, carrying tea, cotton and farm products throughout the country. Hungry people trading scrap metal for money systematically dismantled it. The main "highways" between cities are eroded and there is now one lane for all directions. Southbound traffic hurtles along at 80 miles an hour, playing a deadly game of chicken with northbound busses and military convoys moving at the same speed in the opposite direction. There are very few trees either, as they have all been cut down for firewood. One can observe a few cattle and the occasional goat on a landscape rich with natural grasses. There used to be herds of cattle here, but northern tribes of cattle rustlers stole them.

As we approach Lira the 7 PM curfew draws near. Masses of people throng the roadsides. I am struck by the



Photos courtesy of Sooz Redkey

Above: "As we were leaving the IDP camp, a grandmother arrived with a three month old child whose mother had died at birth, presumably from AIDS. The child was skeletal from malnutrition and neglect. The suffering that had been borne by that newborn will haunt my dreams for a long time."

Left: At the Rachele Center rehabilitation house, children are encouraged to draw pictures of their lives as captives.

fact that they are mostly children. We learn that 50 percent of the population is under the age of 15. Of those, two million are orphans. And where are all those children going? For those who are lucky they will spend the night with relatives, and for those whose relatives have turned them away, or who have no one left alive, they will sleep in the dirt and hope to find a crust to keep them alive. Why the curfew? Why the quickened pace as the sun sets? For these children the boogiemer is real. His name is Joseph Kony.

Since the era of colonialism ended in Uganda, the country has continually been in a state of terrorism. Joseph Kony is the self-proclaimed leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a terrorist organization based upon witchcraft and a perversion of Old Testament scripture. The LRA has no political or military agenda besides violence and bloodshed. For more than 20 years, the LRA has conducted systematic and random night raids on defenseless villages, burning residents in their own huts and shooting those who attempt to escape. Their quest is to steal children. The boys, some as young as six, are conscripted and forced to kill and mutilate their own parents or siblings as initiation (and to ensure that children can never return home). The girls, as young as 10, are taken as sex slaves to produce more soldiers for the cause. Joseph Kony is supported by other terrorist organizations out of the Sudan, which are in turn supported by various European factions with political agendas in Africa.

Instead of sending the army in to wipe out this lunatic, the government's response for 20 years has been to remove the citizens to Internal Displaced Person's (IDP) camps. These

people have become refugees in their own country. Locked down by night, they live in small mud huts in camps of up to 70,000 people packed side by side without adequate water, food, or medical care. Life is tenuous at best. Even the army soldiers who guard the camps sometimes raid the people they are ordered to protect. Cut off from the outside world, at the mercy of a corrupt government, removed from their land without any means of self provision, with no education or skills and little ability to send their children to school, the only hope these people have is what comes to them though non-government organizations like PATH and Northwest Medical Teams.

Sunday, April 3

We arrive at the Otino-Waa Village Orphanage. Here, 80 children (most left parent-less due to AIDS or war) are loved, fed, clothed and educated. The Higgins raise funds by sending emails to friends in the United States who to sponsor children (a cost of \$800 per year, per child). The Higgins hired widows and trained them to care of the children using proper hygiene. There are no frills here, but the children live in relative luxury. They have three meals a day, they get to sleep in a bed and they have a hook on which to hang their one change of clothing. The public classrooms may be taught on a ratio of 150 students per teacher, but class

For these children the boogiemán is real. His name is Joseph Kony.

meets everyday. Most of all, a tall fence lined with barbed wire encircles the orphanage, and the driveway has a steel gate with a large chain secured by a padlock. They are safe from the boogiemán. They can sleep.

Across the road the new church for the orphans is under construction: dirt floor, no roof. We worship there on Sunday morning. The children provide the music for the service, and as they sing and sway to the rhythms of hand made drums and a stringed instrument called an Oboto, their faces filled with joy. Their voices are beautiful. My eyes sting with tears. After lunch, we walk to the site of the orphanage school, slated to open by the end of the year. Bob Higgins—this 60 year-old man who could be at home in Oregon watching football—stands at what will become the front entrance. His face lights up as he describes his vision: To build a school where the ratio is 30 children per teacher. To create a curriculum that will provide a standard second to none in all of Uganda. And then the punch line: “We will teach these orphans to strive for excellence. We will raise up a small cadre of outstanding, ethical men and women of faith, who will grow up to take leadership and who will some day change the course of this country.”

Within the next five years, funds and God willing, the campus of Otino-Waa will expand to house 400 children. May God keep Carol and Bob Higgins healthy and safe. They live by ingenuity and faith, often have more mouths than

money, and depend upon the generosity of their supporters back home. Perhaps the future of Uganda really does lie in the hands of these two saints.

Monday, April 4

Doused in Deet, slathered with sunscreen and wearing long skirts required for women in this culture, we join the caravan of four vans headed north to Orum, the first of the IDP camp we will visit. The landscape here in the countryside appears peaceful. But David, the Ugandan trained director of operations riding with us, tells story after story of raids along this road.

The farther north we go, the more soldiers we see. David explains that the LRA terrorists wear the same uniforms as the Ugandan army, so it is often hard to identify the enemy. In one village, a group of “soldiers” arrived to greet the inhabitants. While the villagers entertained their guests, the LRA surrounded the area. The rebels lit everything on fire, started shooting and murdered 250 people. “But don’t worry,” David adds, “They only attack at night.” I feel better now.

After two hours bumping along on a rutted dirt road, we arrive at Orum. Already there are people waiting for us to arrive. Our well-trained crew of Ugandans pile out of the vans. In 15 minutes, four tents have been set up, the pharmacy is open and the mobile clinic is ready to see patients.

She had named her oldest son Atimango Fatuma, which means, “What wrong have I done?”

The crowd is orderly, polite and patient. No one demands or complains. They smile in the midst of their suffering, so happy to see us.

The tents are divided into two compartments with a health care professional operating out of each compartment. This week’s medical experts are Mark and Sharon, assisted by Ugandan paramedics trained under the auspices of PATH. Today they will treat about 600 patients suffering from various maladies, from malaria, parasites, STD’s, wounds, female, mother/ baby and “other.”

Inside the tents the heat builds. There is no breeze. Flies are everywhere and the odors of wounds, bodies and sickness assault the senses. Still, the medical personnel demonstrate nothing but respect and care, patiently focusing on one person at a time. We have to break camp by 4PM in order to be out of the danger zone before dark. The crowd continues to grow. Many will not get treated.

The hardest thing is lunch break, where we sit in the van eating our two boiled eggs and fry bread while hundreds of hungry eyes follow every bite. We have to eat in order to be able to help. But we have no food to give. The people rely on what is left after corrupt governmental officials steal UN-donated food to sell on the black market.

Toward the end of the day, Sharon is presented with a little 6 month-old baby boy who two days earlier had had his tonsils removed by a witch doctor using a rusty bicycle

spoke. The child has not eaten since and now struggles with a raging fever and dehydration. It takes nearly an hour to get an IV inserted...

Tuesday, April 5

The final stop for the day was a tour of the Rachelle Center, a non-profit that rehabilitates children who have managed to escape Joseph Kony’s army. The women’s quarters were set up like an army barrack with wall to wall bunk beds. These young girls, age 13 to 18, each had a baby at the breast, a toddler by the hand and some even had a third child. One young woman had been the slave of Joseph Kony himself, and was there with two of his sons. She had managed to escape after Kony shot and killed 20 of his other wives and children. She had named her oldest son Atimango Fatuma, which means, “What wrong have I done?”

To encourage psychological healing, the children are encouraged to draw pictures of their lives as captives. The artwork features haunting portrayals of shooting, marches, soldiers pointing rifles, burning huts and bloody, wounded people. The kind of future that lies in store for these children is hard to fathom.

The end of another exhausting day, and we are happy for the embrace of the Higgins hearth.

You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day. Psalm 91:5

Monday, April 12

Flying all night, and with 4 hours sleep, we arrive in Amsterdam, where we have a 5 hour layover before catching our Northwest flight to Seattle. That gets off on time, and after another 10 hours flying and 3 hours sleep, we arrive in Seattle.

Now comes the thrill of seeing our loved ones again. It has been a long, taxing journey. We entered a time and place beyond anything we could have imagined. We arrived home intact, but forever changed. For their resilience, humor, and the genuine love they showed toward the people of Uganda, my dear traveling companions Soozi and Christine will forever have a special place in my heart.

Uganda is a dark and troubled place. But in that darkness shines the promise of new beginnings. Perhaps in our lifetime, we shall see it. Perhaps peace will come through a child of Otino-Waa. Psalm 91:5 is a promise: “You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day.” May God reward the faithfulness of Carol and Bob Higgins, who have given all they have to see that promise come to pass. ▮

Joan Wallace is a member of Northwest Medical Teams’ board of directors and attends church at First Presbyterian Church in Bellevue.

Welcome to Jericho Junction

Children's Ministry to hold acting auditions Sunday, May 22

By Tera L. Miller

Who would have imagined that pretend storefronts connected by a wooden sidewalk would be the platform to teach 3 to 10-year-olds how to name all the books of the Old Testament by memory? The drama ministry of Jericho Junction is more than fake beards and sock puppets. It's a place where the Word of God reaches out to children through the fun, effective teaching of volunteers.

The town of Jericho Junction comes to life every Wednesday in the children's ministry section of the church. At Jericho Junction, kids learn biblical truths and life application lessons from costumed actors and puppets. And with intermissions like, "This program is brought to you by the book of Job and by the Bible verse Galatians 5:13," both children and adult volunteers are taught and reminded what it means to be like Jesus.

To keep this wondrous town alive, Jericho Junction is in need of additional volunteers to help shape the lives of our young brothers and sisters in Christ. Current volunteers have expressed how this ministry has allowed them to be used as a vessel to glorify God.

Sarah Barnard, a Jericho Junction director since October, says, "It's clear that Jericho Junction serves the purpose of teaching Mars Hill's children about Biblical truths and Scripture verses. What surprises me more is how much I myself learn both in working and serving with a team of other believers, and from the scripts themselves. I can now say the books of the Old Testament along with the children!"

Serving as a Jericho Junction actor/puppeteer since last fall, Randy McLain says there are many rewarding moments that make all the preparation and running around worth while. "It is very rewarding when [the kids] come up to you and comment on a skit they enjoyed, or even learn your name. It's a great way to grow and meet people."

To be a part of Mars Hill children's spiritual growth, please come to the Jericho Junction open auditions on Sunday May 22nd. Service positions available include a sound person, director/facilitator, and male and female actors/puppeteers. The time commitment for these service positions is a rehearsal every other Sunday and a performance every other Wednesday evening. For more information contact Tami McKinley at tami@marshallchurch.org. ▼

Acting Out

By Pastor James Harleman

"Actor" and "humble" rarely fall in the same sentence without sarcasm. As part of the drama-geek crowd in high school and college, I speak from personal (read: prideful) experience. Not only did we consider ourselves to stand above most other people, we often valued our skills as worth more than most roles or opportunities offered. Children's theater, in particular, generally put thespian noses in the air.

Kid's stuff.

Child's games.

Play-acting.

It's beneath us... right?

When you meet someone like Justin Schaeffer, actor with Jericho Junction, you remember a verse in Romans about regarding yourself with sober judgment. He's had artwork displayed on our foyer walls, not to mention art shows and galleries around the Pacific Northwest. Despite an art and theatre background that might easily lend itself to think-

ing more highly of himself than he ought, he engages kids on Wednesday nights as a colorful character of Jericho Junction's cast with a smile and enthusiasm that can hardly be matched. He realizes the indelible stamp that his performance might leave on young minds learning valuable lessons about God, and our lives in light of who He is,

revealed through the power of dramatic narrative.

Deacon Dick McKinley learned from the bottom up. A former jock filling the back row of class with his schoolmates, his kind ate the drama geeks for breakfast. Years later, he's dressing up as a cowboy or a pirate as head of Mars Hill's Children's Ministry and trying to tap those with natural talents and spiritual gifts for narrative teaching and working with kids.

"You don't HAVE to have former acting experience to be a valuable part of the team," he stresses. In fact, with the wrong attitude, someone with acting experience can become frustrated. It's NOT Shakespeare, yet it requires a high energy and intensity that must match, or even outpace, the bard. Garnering the attention of young children used to high-

octane television and video games can be an amazing feat. Those who learn from scratch are to be praised, but those who bring theatrical experience and a godly demeanor are truly a blessing.

For those modest enough to offer their gifts where needed, there's a lot of room for creativity. Despite character outlines, McKinley affords his

actors room to experiment and even redesign a character to fit their vision. For a theatrical personality willing to humble themselves for the sake of the gospel, this could be an opportunity that creates much joy for actor and audience alike.

We live in a city that prides itself on appreciating and participating in the arts. In a church this size, it's evident those with talent are filling seats on Sunday and calling Mars Hill Church their home. As a former acting snob, I'm calling my kindred to account – calling them to come out of the woodwork. We have a fresh generation that will benefit from your talents; let's stop valuing the outlets of our expression as the world does, and lend our talents graciously to assist our Christian brothers and sisters in raising families to the glory of God. ▼



Photo by: Chase Mahen



Photo by: Chase Mahen



Photo by: Erin Silva

A Heartbeat from Heaven

The Story of Jessica Abrams

By Beth Witham

Jessica Abrams wears a very special ring on her left hand. It's not her wedding band, though her marriage to her husband Luke is certainly something that's close to her heart.

This ring symbolizes a love formed in God's timing, marked by the heartbeat of someone she has yet to meet face-to-face.

Seven years ago Jessica met the man she would marry at the math study center at the University of Washington. After some time apart during which Jessica found Christ while on a Habitat for Humanity trip to Honduras, God brought Jessica and Luke back together. A year or two into their marriage, Jessica "got the bug" to start trying to have a child. In the summer of 2003, the couple got pregnant, much to their excitement.

"Everything seemed right," Jessica recalled.

After a visit to her doctor when she was nine weeks along, Jessica found out that she had suffered a miscarriage—she had lost her baby. Though Luke tried to encourage Jessica by reminding her that God's timing is perfect, Jessica remembers feeling "something's wrong with me."

Still desiring to have a child, Jessica sought advice from her doctor. The doctor put Jessica on progesterone to treat low hormone levels. In June of 2004 Jessica was pregnant again. "I felt like all my problems were solved," she said.

Jessica turned to God's Word.

"Even though I wasn't hearing God's voice directly, I feel like he was serving me through my friends and speaking to me through scripture."

She read through the book of Job, the story of a righteous man who keeps trying to figure out why bad things are happening in his life. In the end, Job gets a family and his life is restored. Jessica found this story to be a humbling example of God's sovereignty and timing. "I just kind of thought, 'Okay I should be a little more humble about this. It shouldn't be just me saying God don't you see this problem? Fix it.'"

She also read some Psalms in which David is very honest with God, questioning why he is going through such struggles and voicing his desperation. "That (scripture) made me feel like it's okay to ask those questions," she said.

Today, by God's grace, Jessica is pregnant once again. Her baby boy is due on May 15, a week past Mother's Day.

Jessica is looking forward to "the talking years" with her son, the privilege of raising him in the church (one that she did not have growing up), letting him play with her friends' kids and seeing what Luke is like as a father.

"I just have a really intense desire to care for something," said the mother-to-be.

Eight weeks into her current pregnancy, Jessica and Luke went in for a check-up at which they hoped to see the heartbeat of their child for the first time. Jessica, with shattered hopes from her past two pregnancies, braced herself for the worst. "I was just ready to see nothing," she said.

That day Luke and Jessica saw the heartbeat of the new life that God was creating.

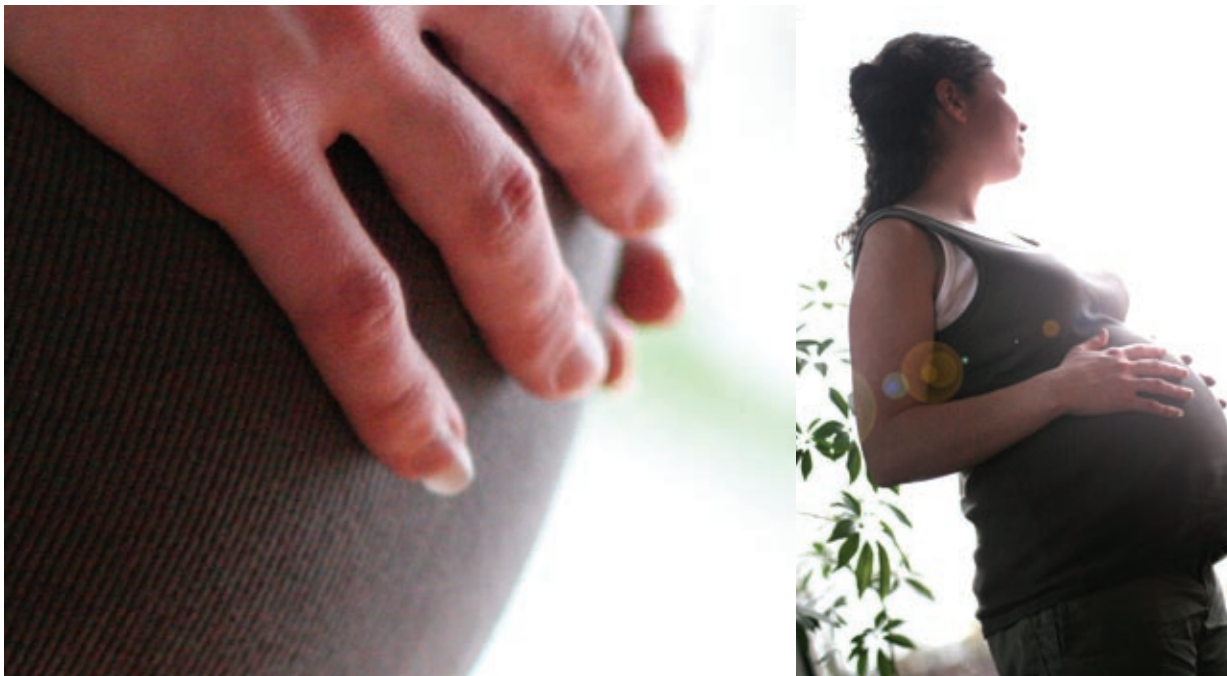
"It was just amazing....it was something I'd never seen before, and I had a little bit of hope after that," said Jessica.

That night, to rejoice over the successful milestone, Luke took Jessica out to dinner and gave her the ring that she still wears on her left ring finger, just in front of her wedding ring. It is a symbol of God's faithfulness, something Jessica has learned a lot about these last two years.

"I think if something like this happens again I'll be able to be more patient and trusting with God...He has perfect timing," she said. ▽

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you many have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have to come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 Peter 1:3-7



Photos by: Bryan Myss

Pregnant for the second time in a year, Jessica was hesitant to tell more than just a few close friends, just in case this pregnancy didn't survive. To her devastation, Jessica miscarried again at six weeks. In addition to turning to friends, the church and her community group for support,



Photo by: Christine Francisco



Photo by: Brian Casey



Photo by: Christine Francisco

Maternal Meditations

Two Mars Hill members share their run-ins with motherhood

A Wife and Mother

The Freedom of Being a Mom

By Grace Driscoll

The most common question I get when I go out in public with my kids is, "Are they ALL yours?" Having four children in Seattle is definitely unusual, since we have one of the lowest number of children per capita in the country.

As we celebrate Mother's Day this month, mixed emotions emerge depending on how we view our own mothers. Motherhood is not as respected as it once was. We are constantly fighting the cultural questions that ask, "Doesn't motherhood limit our potential as a woman?" "Are we less than a person if we stay home to raise our children?" "Isn't the concept of motherhood an antiquated idea that seeks to suppress the modern woman?"

The answers to these questions are clear in the Scripture, yet so seemingly unclear when compared to the yearnings of the culture around us. The more I study what God says for me to do as a woman, wife and mother, the more peace I have in the roles God created for me. God has given us clear principles for being a mom and much freedom in the methods by which we live them out.

According to Titus 2:4-5, we are to "train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God."

The question persists, if we are not doing this ourselves, how can we train others? Many

(continued: SEE "Wife and Mother", page 13)

A Son Abandoned

The Sin of My Mother

By Anonymous

I watched my mom cry from the other side of the room. She sat at a table surrounded by family, but seemed distant and alone. Tears smeared her makeup, and her eyes were puffy and red. A new hair cut, a new dress—she played the mother of the bride role pretty well, all things considered.

For the first few hours of the wedding, she tried to hold back the tears, but when I stood up and gave a speech praising the Lord for blessing me with a wonderful relationship with my sister, she lost control. What I couldn't do was praise the Lord for that same relationship with my mom. Maybe that's why she was crying. It's hard to make complete sense of the tears at my sister's wedding, but I know they were complex, and they couldn't be more sincere.

I had seen those tears just once before, eight months ago when my sister spoke to my new bride and I for the first time. The speech was similar to my own, as was my mother's reaction. Before our wedding ceremony, there was a slide show chronicling the lives of my wife and I. A few minutes into it, my mom lost her composure and had to get up and leave.

She was in some of the pictures of course, and she took some of the shots I'm sure, but I think the ones that tore her up the most were the ones that she missed. She was seeing glimpses of her son's life that she walked out of.

It's hard for a mother to look her child in the eye and say she's sorry. I suppose it's even

(continued: SEE "Son Abandoned", page 13)

Wife and Mother

(continued from page 12)

of us were not taught these things, so we continue to not seek the Truth and instead pass on devastating lies to other women. Can we not see that folly isn't working? Marriages are falling apart, children are falling apart, churches are falling apart...what will it take for us to resist our flesh and welcome God's commands like a kiss? "Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other" (Psalm 85:10).

God desires peace for us, but when we resist righteousness and faithfulness to His will, we experience chaos—the kind we see in the world around us.

Single women and married women without children can get a head start on their learning before children come into the picture. Even though I got my college degree and worked for 5 years before having children, my best training for motherhood was reading Proverbs, watching moms that I respected and taking care of kids at church. I have several single friends, including my older sister, that make a point of spending time with our kids so they can learn from their world.

Children have so much to teach us if we are willing to learn, especially about ourselves. Their sins are usually a duplication of our own sins, and a great reminder to put our old sins to death. As an example, even the unmarried Lord Jesus spent time with children and used them as an illustration for adults teaching, "The kingdom will belong to such as these."

Additionally, women are told in 1 Timothy 2:15 that we will be saved through childbearing—if we continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety. This is not referring to our eternal salvation, rather a continual process of sanctification (being made more like Christ).

Paul was exactly right! I am daily humbled by the responsibilities God has given to me in raising children. I am a chef, maid, doctor, nutritionist, teacher, disciplinarian, comforter, organizer, personal shopper, chauffeur, cleaner, sanitary worker, counselor, design consultant, handyman, technician...the practical knowledge is endless. If I do these things in faith, love and holiness, then I will be helping my children have the opportunity to follow Christ and live out the gospel to others.

Doesn't the role of mother limit our ability to demonstrate our gifts? No.

We can lead children and women (single or married), which is what a Titus 2 woman should desire. God does not give us gifts unless he provides righteous opportunities to use them. We just need to make sure we don't use them unrighteously.

Doesn't it make us less of a person to just stay at home with the kids or take care of our husband? No.

We were created in the image of God and that is where our value comes from, not in what we do. It is an honor, after working in the corporate world for many years, to be a helpmate for my husband and a mother for my children.

The Proverbs 31 woman is a crown for her husband and her children rise up and call her blessed. These honorable roles are a privilege that we can either embrace from the Lord or reject in sin. These ideas seem antiquated only because our culture has labeled them as such. But God promises that we find favor in His eyes when we seek His good and perfect will.

I hope that all of our Mars Hill women will accept the wisdom that teaches: "Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised" (Proverbs 31:30). ❧

Son Abandoned

(continued from page 12)

more difficult when she realizes those eyes look exactly like her own. But I think it's even tougher for that child to honor and love his mother without the apology he wants so badly, to not be bitter about a childhood full of things the Lord helps him forget.

So every year Mother's Day rolls around, I'm reminded that I disrespect my mother almost every time I think about her, and I almost always slander her if someone is willing to listen to me. Though for whatever reason, this year seems different. I'm trying to remember the good instead of forgetting the bad. The great thing is that if I just try to be positive, I realize that things between my Mom and I are the best they have ever been and it's my fault that I'm not enjoying them.

But so much of the past has never been spoken of, and that silence is the wall that separates us.

I was six years old when my parents divorced. It was the same year that my grandpa died and a Great Dane mauled my face, coming within an inch of my right eye. I always remember it as a tough year for me, but more than anybody, it was a tough year for my father.

This wasn't the first time my mom had had an affair, it was just the last time she would have one while being married to my dad.

As a matter of fact, my uncle almost killed my mom one night when he caught her sleeping with another man. He didn't, but that was probably the only thing that would have stopped her. Her final affair culminated in dramatic fashion when she came to the house with her new man in my dad's old Chevy and shouted from the passenger seat for me and my sister to come outside. We didn't, but I wanted to. Up until that point, I was a mama's boy through and through, too young to judge her character. It's not that I didn't know that my dad was right and my mom was wrong, it was that I didn't know my mom and dad could be wrong.

My dad tells me now that her leaving him was fueled by an unwillingness to grow up. They fell in love as partiers, drinking and vacationing the first six years of their marriage. But then they had a couple of kids and my dad's union went on strike. Things got tough and my mom couldn't give up the past. She didn't want kids and she wasn't ready for them, so she divorced my dad and didn't have any. During that time the Lord sheltered my sister and I, and we barely knew the difference.

My dad battled depression and eventually alcoholism, but kicked them both within a few years. If not for his strength and the neighbors who watched us while my dad worked overtime, it's hard to say how things would have turned out.

Now, ten years after my mom divorced her second husband, she's living with another alcoholic and trying her best to get by. She does fine and she tries harder than ever to be a mother to her two married children, both in their twenties. But she didn't try back then, and I don't try now.

There are so many skeletons, but I know that I would accept just one thorough apology. I'd let the drugs go, the verbal abuse, the third marriage to an immigrant for money that she doesn't think I know about. I just want it to be out in the open.

My prayers are changing these days, though. I used to want the Lord to speak to her and make her apologize. But instead, He's speaking to me and wants me to exercise some initiative. Her sin is falling on my shoulders and the Spirit wants to heal the relationship by stirring me to take the first step.

The sad thing about this essay is that there is no tidy resolution to the problem. Writing this piece was supposed to motivate me to talk with my mom so I could compose a great article about reconciliation just in time for Mother's Day, but that hasn't happened yet. Despite everything, I desire a loving relationship with my mom because it is just sin that separates us that only God's grace can overcome.

I now pray just one thing: to see her tears just one more time, and to have some of my own to share this time around. ❧

George MacDonald and Christian Mythmaking



By Joey Rice

You've probably heard of them. Maybe more than you'd like. The ever-quoted C.S. Lewis, the blockbuster-worthy J.R.R. Tolkien. Perhaps lesser-known, there is also the third-grade required reading champion Madeleine L'Engle and the mystery novelist Dorothy Sayers, among others. These are the heavyweights in the unique category of Christian myth-makers, who have merged a Christian worldview with their creative masterpieces of fantasy and fiction. These authors are particularly successful in no small part because they have found a way to tell stories that, for many, don't leave the saccharin taste of sentimentality found in the Christian fiction of Bible bookstores today. They are philosophers, scholars, philologists, intellectuals, and poets. They are truth-smugglers to a captive secular following. They do this by crafting tales that allure the reader with the power of story to communicate deep theological truths, without shoving it in their face or making their stories exclusively "Christian."

The literary father of them all may also be the most obscure: George MacDonald, who once said, "The best thing you can do for your fellow, next to rousing his conscience, is—not to give him things to think about, but to wake things up that are in him." MacDonald knew that there is something about an epic tale that can affect the human heart in a way that rhetoric and instruction never can. MacDonald was a master at this. In fact, that's what Lewis called MacDonald: "I have never concealed the fact that I regarded George MacDonald as my master; indeed, I fancy I have never written a book in which I did not quote from him."

MacDonald was a Scottish minister of the Victorian era. His best theological works often centered around the theme of good death in baptism, self-relinquishment, and servanthood. He himself was well acquainted with suffering in the events of his own life: chronic illness, poverty, and the deaths of two of his grown children.

Although Lewis never had the opportunity to meet MacDonald in life, he imagined what it might be like to do so in heaven in *The Great Divorce*. There, MacDonald appears as Lewis' guide through heaven, like Dante's Virgil. Lewis tries to explain to MacDonald what he meant to his spiritual awakening: "I tried to tell how a certain frosty afternoon at Leatherhead Station when I first bought a copy of *Phantastes* (being then about sixteen years old) had been to me what the first sight of Beatrice had been to Dante: *Here begins the New Life*. I started to confess how long that Life had delayed in the region of imagination merely: how slowly and reluctantly I had come to admit his Christendom had more than an accidental with it, how hard I had tried not to see that the true name of the quality which first met me in his books is Holiness."

Unlike Lewis and his *Chronicles of Narnia*, MacDonald did not write allegory. He considered such writing to be "a weariness to the spirit." Perhaps it's no wonder he thought so, living in the age in which a copy of John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's*

Progress appeared in every home. But his Victorian England was becoming more and more atheistic and disconnected from God as Darwinian evolution took hold and the Great Crisis of Faith ensued. In light of this, MacDonald told stories that would engage the imagination on a spiritual level and offer a knowledge deeper than scientific fact. It's no wonder that such sharp analytical thinkers have been drawn to him as with the apologetics-minded Lewis and the linguistic genius, Tolkien.

MacDonald used symbolism and imagery to redeem tired theological ideas. In MacDonald's adult fairy story *Phantastes*, the old woman with young eyes, who ministers to the pathless protagonist Anados, gives a wholly new understanding to the nurturing goodness of the Ancient of Days. Likewise, in *The Princess and Curdie*, a beloved children's tale, Curdie's task to thrust his hands in the blazing rose fire at the request of the loving Princess Irene invites a redeemed concept for hot refinement and obedience. MacDonald does not attempt to make his symbols one-to-one correlations with any single Christian character or idea, but suggests rich and multiple meanings in the landscape of his stories.

He flies under the radar. Even Lewis didn't know why what he had tasted seemed so sweet until his brain caught up. And that allowed him to embrace it before he could ever make an intellectual assent to Christianity. "What it did was to convert, even to baptize my imagination," Lewis said. Perhaps it was MacDonald himself who explained his calling best in his devotional, *The Diary of an Old Soul*:

*When I no more can stir my soul to move,
And life is but the ashes of a fire;
When I can but remember that my heart
Once used to live and love, long and aspire—
Oh, be thou then the first calling, before all answering love,
And in me wake hope, fear, boundless desire.*

MacDonald knew what it was to be roused by his God and caught up into a great delight. And he himself did well to beckon others to come along with him. ▽

Recommended Reading:

Phantastes, *Diary of an Old Soul*, *The Princess and the Goblins*, and *At the Back of the North Wind* by George MacDonald

Till We Have Faces by C.S. Lewis

The Time Quartet by Madeleine L'Engle

Vintage Saints

by Pastor Mark Driscoll

Richard Baxter

The great English Puritan Richard Baxter was born November 12, 1615. His father was converted around the time of his son's birth. Together they spent a great deal of time reading Scripture and Puritan literature to help compensate for the lack of a good Bible teaching church near their home.

As he grew, Baxter proved to have a keen intellect and was encouraged to study law at Oxford. Instead, he chose to train for ministry under the tutelage of chaplain Richard Wickstead. Though Baxter was his only student, Wickstead apparently ignored the young man and taught him virtually nothing. Thankfully, Baxter was a self-motivated learner who dedicated his time to reading and thereby trained himself for ministry.

At the age of 24, Baxter took a position as an associate pastor and occasionally preached to a large congregation during his two years of ministry at his first church. At 26, he was called to preach at a very small church of only a few people in a township of about 3000 residents. The people there were not Christian and well known for great sin and depravity.

Knowing that the unruly citizens of that town would not attend church, Baxter chose to function as a missionary and bring the gospel to them house by house. Baxter and his associate pastor visited each of the 800 homes in their town sharing the gospel and training their converts about the Christian life. Additionally, Baxter preached for an hour twice on Sundays and once on Thursdays. His labors proved fruitful and over the course of many years work his church grew to about 1000 people in a town of only 3000 in what could reasonably be called a genuine revival.

Baxter was married at the age of 46 to Margaret Charlton, twenty years his junior. Sadly, she died 19 years later.

Baxter's successful ministry was also marked by opposition. When he was 54, Baxter was imprisoned for a few weeks for preaching the gospel. As a 70 year-old still preaching the Word, he was thrown in prison again, this time for 18 months.

In addition to providing incredible pastoral care for his church, Baxter was also a prolific writer. During the course of his lifetime, he penned 168 books that total between 30,000 and 40,000 pages of small font. Perhaps his best-known book is *The Saint's Everlasting Rest*, which he penned about heaven during a bout of illness that left him near death.

One of Baxter's most influential books was *A Call to the Uncovered*. It was the first evangelistic book written in English and was intended to be read by non-Christians. In it, Baxter clearly and meticulously taught and defended the gospel of Jesus Christ in plain and direct language. The book sold 20,000 copies the first year it was in print. It would later have a profound impact on the evangelist George Whitefield, and was often read as a morning devotional by the great Baptist preacher Charles Spurgeon when he was a young man.

My personal favorite is *The Reformed Pastor*, a must-read for any young man aspiring to ministry. In this book, Baxter skillfully articulates the inner life of a pastor and how God builds a minister before He builds a ministry. Perhaps my favorite line from the book is, "Many a preacher is now in hell, who hath a hundred times called upon his hearers to use the utmost care and diligence to escape it."

*"In necessary things, unity;
in doubtful things, liberty;
in all things, charity."*



Baxter's insights on ministry came both from his many years of faithful service to his church, and his weekly training for many pastors. His wisdom remains incredibly relevant over 300 years later because he focused on the unchanging essentials of ministry rather than chasing various fleeting fads.

Perhaps Baxter's most impressive writing is his mammoth tome *A Christian Directory*. As a fan of the Puritans since my conversion in college, I had earnestly sought to locate a copy of the out-of-print book with no success, despite the fact that I was willing to spend upwards of \$200 for a copy. Fortunately, this great work was reprinted in 2000 and is now widely available.

The book is, in essence, a comprehensive manual providing counsel for biblical counselors. One of my favorite contemporary pastors, Timothy Keller of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York, called it "the greatest manual on biblical counseling ever produced."

The directory is about 1 million-and-a-quarter words long and spans some 950 single spaced pages with two columns of incredibly fine print. Baxter wrote nearly the entire book between 1664 and 1665 without the aid of a secretary or modern conveniences like a computer. It was first published in 1673. The book breaks down into four parts, with Part I devoted to pastoral directions on loving the Lord, and Parts II-IV devoted to loving our neighbor by focusing on a Christian's responsibilities to the home, church and community.

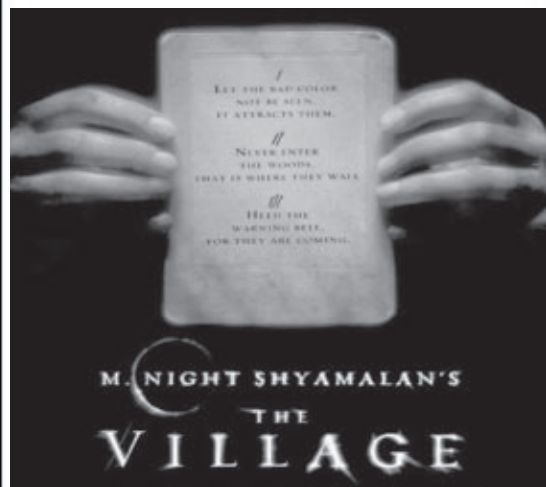
Baxter's *A Christian Directory* is an invaluable and insightful masterpiece for anyone hoping to provide Biblical counseling. His work addresses topics such as adultery, gluttony, lying, alcoholism and other sins that remain perennially popular. His insights are gleaned from Scripture and the in-home visits he conducted with each member of his church every year.

Most helpful, Baxter lived before the invention of modern psychology and its pioneers such as Freud, Maslow, Jung and James, who are not Christians, do not respect Scripture and do not embrace the gospel themes of sin and grace. Therefore, Baxter's tested pastoral insights remain critically insightful for anyone wanting to provide biblical counsel not polluted by the spirit of our age that in all of its wisdom does not know God and therefore cannot effect lasting change upon the soul. ▮

film&theology

welcome to mediscem see
look closer mean
consume his if fight image
we are rosebud offspring you want
think garbage in to club
come with i am your father live

all stories possess shared themes, and many films are saying a lot more than you realize. join us as we engage contemporary culture and view this art form through a discerning lens.



join us friday may 20, 6:45pm



MARS HILL CHURCH



take home mars hill music for \$10.

the RADICAL reformission

**on sale now in all
major bookstores.**

**buy it at the Mars
Hill resource
center in the
Northeast corner
for only \$10.**

by Mark Driscoll

Mars Hill Community Groups

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Heb 10:24-25)

Mars Hill community groups are modeled after the early New Testament home churches. In Acts Chapter 2, Christians gathered together in homes for the purposes of studying Scripture, bonding as a Christ-loving community and advancing the Gospel in their culture. They held everything in common through friendship, prayer, fellowship, meals and study.

All community groups take place in the homes of church members who are committed to sharing their lives with those who participate in their group. The purpose of community groups is to provide a warm environment with opportunities for you to connect and grow authentic relationships and lasting biblical friendships with your brothers and sisters in Christ, experience authentic biblical community with God and others, find nourishment and accountability as you mature in your own walk with Christ and establish a support center from which you will go out into your various social networks carrying the hope of the Gospel.

Prayerfully consider joining a community group. A comprehensive list of groups with contact information is available online, in the connect center, and below.

(Please contact the host for address, directions, etc. using the contact information given below)



MONDAY

Ballard
Led By: Ken French
Contact: Becky Clements
Phone: 206-297-0702
Email: rebeccaclements@hotmail.com

Ballard 7pm
Led By: Mark Blair, Craig Baker
Contact: Mark Blair
Email: marktheblair@yahoo.com

Greenlake 7pm
Led By: Jon Bugler
Contact: Josh Wall
Phone: 206-524-2032
Email: zoned_out2@yahoo.com

North Seattle 10am
Led By: Tina French
Contact: Kate Policani
Phone: 206-418-0405
Email: cupkate@comcast.net
For Women Only

Redmond 7pm
Led By: John Rivard
Contact: John and Jeannie Rivard
Phone: 206-484-3886
Email: john@rivards.net

TUESDAY

Ballard 6:30pm
Led By: Fawn Hall
Contact: Fawn Hall
Phone: 206-706-8379
Email: gasket_girl@hotmail.com
For Women Only

Ballard 7pm
Led By: Luke Abrams
Contact: Jessica Abrams
Phone: 206-619-3824
Email: jessica@theabrams.net

Ballard
Led By: Scott Richardson
Contact: Scott Richardson
Phone: 206-783-5902
Email: ballardcommunitygroup@earthlink.net

Ballard 7:30pm
Led By: David Pauls
Contact: David and Patty Pauls
Phone: (206) 235-4215
Email: patty@starfishcreative.com

Ballard
Led By: Brad House
Contact: Brad and Jill House
Phone: 206-227-2652
Email: jillhouse@hotmail.com

Central District
Led By: Wes Oaks
Contact: Brian Truman
Phone: 206-903-8545
Email: motoroilandbedhead@yahoo.com

Crown Hill 7:30pm
Led By: Drew Maxwell
Contact: Drew and Lisa Maxwell
Phone: 206-650-7085
Email: lisa@marshallchurch.org

Edmonds 7pm
Led By: Wilson Raj
Contact: Rick James
Phone: 512-626-9518
Email: denali_2000@yahoo.com
For Men Only

Everett
Led By: Tim Quiring
Contact: Tim and Anne Quiring
Phone: 425-379-2966
Email: tquiring@earthlink.net

Fremont 7pm
Led By: Jon Cross
Contact: Jon and Amie Cross
Phone: 206-782-1398
Email: across@seattlechristian.org

Fremont 7pm
Led By: Andrew Hockman,
Sally Morrison
Contact: Andrew Hockman
Phone: 425-830-1805
Email: sledge@getstunned.com

Greenlake 7:30pm
Led By: Lee Brown
Contact: Christy Oosten
Phone: 206-297-6391
Email: c_oosten@hotmail.com

Greenwood 6:30pm
Led By: Nick Mocer
Contact: Nick and Beth Mocer
Phone: 206-219-9092
Email: nick@wearedual.com

Issaquah 6:45pm
Led By: Dan Kronstad
Contact: Jason Cowan
Email: jasoncowan98@yahoo.com

Kirkland 7:30pm
Led By: Tim Zion
Contact: Tim and Mariah Zion
Phone: 206-427-7869
Email: timzion@hotmail.com

Lake City 7pm
Led By: Matt Johnson
Contact: Rose Johnson
Phone: 206-953-6414
Email: r_shalomj@yahoo.com

Lake City 7pm
Led By: Matthew Smith
Contact: Matthew and Christina Smith
Phone: 206-300-6128
Email: matthew@windermere.com

Lynnwood 7pm
Led By: Phil Smidt, James Dahlman
Contact: Jim Dahlman
Phone: 425-744-0588
Email: jedahlman@hotmail.com

Magnolia 7pm
Led By: Tony Bolander
Contact: Tony Bolander
Phone: 206-979-8811
Email: tonybolander@yahoo.com

North Seattle 7pm
Led By: Mark Kaetzel
Contact: Mark and Marin Kaetzel
Phone: 206-361-2282
Email: kaetzelfamily@msn.com

Phinney Ridge 10am
Led By: Kim Hall
Contact: Kim Hall
Phone: 206-297-7995
Email: kimbrehall@comcast.net
For Women Only

Queene Anne 7pm
Led By: Joel Robnett
Contact: Joel Robnett
Phone: 206-300-0960
Email: robnett26@hotmail.com

Redmond
Led By: Jesse Winkler
Contact: Jesse Winkler
Phone: 425-558-9433
Email: jessewinkler@verizon.net

Shoreline 7pm
Led By: Andrew Myers
Contact: Heidi Myers
Phone: 206-992-3019
Email: alayne@gmail.com

Shoreline 7pm
Led By: Bill Nieman
Contact: Bill and Joan Nieman
Phone: 206-417-5565
Email: joanandbill@seanet.com

Shoreline 10am
Led By: Trisha Wilkerson
Contact: Trisha Wilkerson
Email: trishaw@speakeasy.net
For Women Only

So. Issaquah 7pm
Led By: David Nelson
Contact: David and Sammi Nelson
Phone: 425-432-0748
Email: applefieldfarm@msn.com

South Seattle 7pm
Led By: Ted Dietz
Contact: Ted and Sarah Dietz
Phone: 206-755-0774
Email: sarahdietz@comcast.net

University District 7pm
Led By: Josh Dougherty
Contact: Josh Dougherty
Phone: 360-620-2180
Email: doughj@spu.edu

University District 7pm
Led By: Jacob Beers
Contact: Jacob Beers
Phone: 206-524-3396
Email: jbeers707@hotmail.com

Wallingford
Led By: Paul Miller
Contact: Mike Murphey
Phone: 206-547-0635
Email: mmurphey@microsoft.com
For Men Only

Wallingford 7pm
Led By: Michael Adeney
Contact: Michael Adeney
Phone: 206-240-7589
Email: mwadeney@u.washington.edu

WEDNESDAY

Crown Hill 10am
Led By: Sandy Patterson
Contact: Sandy Patterson
Phone: 206-306-0977
Email: ssl7@cornell.edu
For Women Only

Kirkland 6:30pm
Led By: Jamie Wallace
Contact: Jamie Wallace
Phone: 425-605-4524
Email: jamie@jamieandholly.com

THURSDAY

Bellevue 7pm
Led By: Cliff Low
Contact: Tim and Dulci Klassen
Phone: 425-373-3377
Email: timndulc@hotmail.com

Bothell 10am
Led By: Danielle Blazer
Contact: Danielle Blazer
Phone: 425-316-6803
Email: DaniBlazer@aol.com
For Women Only

Greenwood 7pm
Led By: Bryan Ver Beek
Contact: Bryan and Krista Ver Beek
Phone: 206-783-8098
Email: bkverbeek@yahoo.com

Kenmore 7pm
Led By: Richard Harleman
Contact: Richard Harleman
Phone: 425-205-9367
Email: raharleman@hotmail.com

Kirkland 6:30 PM
Led By: Micah Stroh
Contact: Michelle Bates
Phone: (206) 313-7757
Email: lcruizerchick@yahoo.com

Lynnwood 7:30pm
Led By: Kristian Ellefsen
Contact: Bina Ellefsen
Phone: 206-372-2694
Email: bina@nwirp.org

Northgate 7pm
Led By: Eric Youngblut
Contact: Eric and Carla Youngblut
Phone: 206-219-9125
Email: ericandcarla@youngblut.net

Phinney Ridge 7pm
Led By: Chris Hall
Contact: Kim Hall
Phone: 206-297-7995
Email: kimbrehall@comcast.net

Queen Anne 7pm
Led By: Aaron Easter
Contact: Torrey Maben
Phone: 206-285-7027
Email: torrey@marshallchurch.org

FRIDAY

Bainbridge Island
Led By: Bob Moore
Contact: Bob and Dixie Moore
Phone: 206-842-1402
Email: rim@bainbridge.net

North Seattle
Led By: Paul Petry
Contact: Paul and Jonna Petry
Email: pastorpaul@marshallchurch.org

Redmond 10am
Led By: Angie Winkler
Contact: Angela Winkler
Phone: 425-558-9433
Email: angelawinkler@verizon.net
For Women Only

SATURDAY

Shoreline 5pm
Led By: Mike Wilkerson
Contact: Mike and Trisha Wilkerson
Email: trishaw@speakeasy.net

Money at Mars Hill

What do we believe about our stuff?

Very simply, everything we have comes from God. Our money is a blessing and a tool we use to worship Him by giving to the church (to further the Gospel in Seattle), providing for our families and enjoying God and the grace that He gives us. You may have a lot and you may have a little, but the real question is: are you worshipping God with your stuff and do the first fruits of your checkbook reveal that?

How much should I give?

The Bible says that giving is for Christians and should be directed first to your local church. The does not say how much you should give but rather seeks to deal with the heart behind your giving. 2nd Corinthians 8 and 9 say that our giving should be cheerful, regular, sacrificial and generous. The Bible does not prescribe a percentage; through prayer we must seek to have a clear conscience in regards to our giving. Jesus says, *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* (Mt 6:21).

Who should give?

Christians should give faithfully to their local church. If you are not a Christian, don't give—seek to deal with the larger issue: your sin and Jesus' forgiveness of that sin. We are not concerned about the amount people give but about the number of people who are giving. God is building His kingdom through the church, and He asks that all believers share in this joyous responsibility. This mission is bigger than just a few of us and takes everyone's effort and faithfulness; no matter if you are a college student who can give only 10 bucks a month or a millionaire who can give thousands.

How Can I Give At Mars Hill?

- By check or cash placed in the offering basket during service
- By check or cash placed In the triangular kiosks located in the foyers
- By mailing a check to the church office (contact the office if you would like some self addressed envelopes).
- Online contributions can be given via debit or credit card at www.marshillchurch.org.
- Automatic Payments (ACH) can also be set up - email giving@marshillchurch.org
- Donation of stock

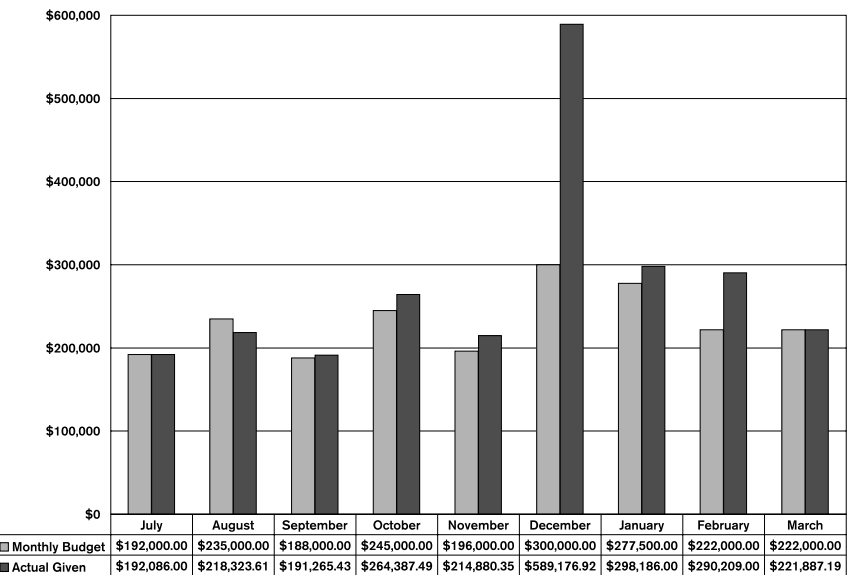
Sincerely,
Pastor Jamie Munson

Questions, Comments or Concerns,
e-mail: giving@marshillchurch.org

CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION/WEEKLY GIVING TRENDS

Date	Budget	Giving	# of Givers	Attendance
March 6	\$55,000.00	\$89,907.93	463	3608
March 13	\$55,000.00	\$58,857.00	341	3563
March 20	\$55,000.00	\$73,080.00	356	3666
March 27	\$55,000.00	Easter week offering of \$203,260.46 went toward the new building		
April 3	\$65,000.00	\$65,326.49	315	3636
April 10	\$65,000.00	\$84,579.35	440	3771

MONTHLY BUDGET VS. ACTUAL GIVING



GIVING TRENDS

(July 1, 2004– April 10, 2005)

Total Given \$2,630,139.90
Households 2009
Average Giving \$137.81/mo.
Per household

EXPAND CAMPAIGN

Due to a growing church body and space limitations, we have purchased a new facility one block North at 1401 NW 50th.

We need to raise 3 million dollars in the next 16 months – for full details check out the “EXPAND” FLYER or go to www.marshillchurch.org.

Needed funds **\$3,000,000**
Raised to date **\$1,003,925**
Number of
Giving Households **662**

We ask that each household pray and do what they can to contribute to our church project – if every person does their part, we should be able to reach our goal as we continue to reach the city of Seattle for Christ.

Giving

(continued from page 2)

These are the biblical motives for giving:

- It's God's to begin with, He owns it and gave it freely to you.
- It is better to give than to receive. None of us can take any of our possessions with us to Heaven.
- Our giving should primarily be directed to the local church. The church is what God has established as His primary tool for spreading the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Our giving should be sacrificial, meaning you have to give up something else in order to give back to God.
- Our giving should be done joyfully and not begrudgingly. It's an issue of "I get to," not "I have to."
- Our giving should be generous. We are blessed with time, resources and spiritual gifts so that we may bless others.
- God cares more about our willingness to give than the exact amount we give. Are you willing to serve him above your wealth? If so, does your checkbook reflect this?

I've successfully not answered your question specifically but left it up to you to prayerfully consider. I suggest that anyone struggling with the issue of giving, stewardship or finances in general should read through Proverbs, the Gospels and 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. Let God lead you and convict you as to how He wants you to steward your resources.

Pastor Jamie Munson

P.S. - When asked for my personal opinion, I recommend 10% as a good starting point. If every Christian who considers Mars Hill their church home gave 10% of their income to the church, we would have millions and millions of dollars in addition to our current giving. We could buy a new building with all cash and have the ability to carry out anything God called us to do. My continued prayer is not about how much money people give, but that all of us would continue to be more and more faithful with the resources that God has so graciously blessed us with.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Advance

May 27 - May 29

The responsibility is yours, Mars Hill men, to step forward and engage in the battle that Paul refers to as the good fight of faith.

"Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith".

This year's Men's Advance is designed to challenge and equip you to be the godly men God designed and to fight the good fight no matter what stage of life you are in.

Set this weekend aside and join together with other Mars Hill Men as we face our calling in manhood. We will be covering topics throughout the weekend such as:

- Biblical Manhood
- Biblical Sexuality
- Man as Warrior
- Man as Provider
- Man and Singleness
- Man as Husband
- Man as Father
- Man as Sage

Cost: \$100 - 2 nights, includes all meals. There will be a Saturday only option for \$55 which will include 3 meals. The Advance will be held at the Warm Beach Christian Camps and Conference Center.

MH South Africa Project Team

July 31st through August 20th

Join other Mars Hillians on a (3) week trip to Loskop, South Africa. There you will live and work with orphans and widows at the Agathos Foundations' Cottages at Injasuti. You will join a Project Team of ten from SPU which will already be on the ground. Help stage a concert to raise awareness of the orphan plight scheduled for August 6th in Loskop. Day hike, game preserve and African braais' are included SA activities. Contact projects@agathosfoundation.org for further information or visit <http://www.agathosfoundation.org/OurWork/Projects.aspx>.

One or two week stays in country available.

Location: Loskop, South Africa

Fee: \$3,000.00

7:15pm Service Crew

Do you attend our new 7:15pm service? Be a hospitable host to those who are coming to hear about Jesus and worship alongside us. Jay Edmark needs more volunteers to help with cleanup after this service. Email jay@marshallchurch.org



Auditions? Auditions for What?

If you haven't ever been in the Children's Ministry area there is a small town called Jericho Junction. On Wednesday nights the town's people come alive to teach kids biblical truths and life application lessons. However, as people move out of town there is a need to replace them for the upcoming year. Jericho Junction will be holding auditions Sunday May 8th for positions opening up on next year's schedule. Jericho Junction is an every other week commitment that runs October thru June. If you love drama (experienced or not) and enjoy teaching kids the bible in fun and exciting ways, this is the ministry for you. We are looking for the undiscovered Mars Hill Brad Pitt's, Adam Sandler's, Sandra Bullock's, Queen Latifa's and Steven Spielberg's (we're looking for a director too!) Or if you have just want to share your joy in Christ in a dramatic way please contact Tami McKinley for more information and to sign up for your audition. tami@marshallchurch.org

The Breakfast Club (Emilio not included)

Ephesians 4:12, 13 & Ephesians 2:10, 11

Volunteers are needed for the Breakfast Club (formerly Breakfast with Bubba) on Saturday mornings at 10am. This is a great ministry for new members and guests to get connected with our church. Contact jay@marshallchurch.org

Be a man: join security!

We are short-handed on security volunteers for all Sunday services and especially Wednesday night during classes. We need more security volunteers to be the Body's eyes, ears and stealth ninja skills (no previous ninja experience necessary). We have had a few break-ins lately and would like to show a presence in order to prevent future occurrences. Step up! Contact jay@marshallchurch.org

Let's RAFT!

Climb Smith Rock and Raft White Salmon River, Oregon

Climbing Details

What – Climb Smith Rock, central Oregon

When – Leave early Friday, May 13, return Sunday night, May 15

Cost: \$40, \$35 for students

Come join us for a weekend of climbing and fellowship. This event is for everyone – whether you are a seasoned climber or have never climbed a rock in your life. We will be camping at the State Park, which is about a 20 minute walk from most of the climbs. Breakfasts and dinners will be provided. This is one of our most popular annual events and space is limited. So, sign up early to reserve your spot!

Contact David Skavdahl ristretto@spu.edu for more information or to sign up.



Who are we?

Christ loving singles over 18 who are members of Mars Hill or call Mars Hill home.

What are we about?

Teaching biblical truths on topics specifically related to singleness. Providing instruction on the process of dating and courtship. Creating a safe environment for Mars Hill singles to meet

Check Out What's Happenin' in May!

Mark your calanders, we are gearing up for spring and summer and the calander is starting to fill up for May! See the calendar on **page 16** for more details or go to our website:

www.marshallchurch.org/covenant

WE NEED YOU!

You, and your ideas!

If you have an idea for a great event, please tell us!

If you are a member that would like to host an event, send us your evite!

If you are looking for an opportunity to serve at our monthly events, and get to know others in the Covenant Ministry we are looking for volunteers.

Email us at covenant@marshallchurch.org

may

for more information, visit www.marshallchurch.org

weekly this season

sunday services

9:00 am, 11:15 am, 5:00 pm, 7:15 pm
(children’s ministry at all services except 7:15 pm)

gospel class

The first point of connection for those considering Mars Hill as their church home. Content of the class covers our core values, biblical theology, our mission and how to participate with us spiritually and practically.

capstone classes

Christian education classes are free of charge.

[proxy] (teens at MH, wednesday evenings)

[proxy] is our midweek ministry for junior high and high school students, including music, teaching, discussion and prayer.

jericho junction (wednesday evenings)

Biblical truths and values are uniquely presented on Wednesday nights through the use of puppets and live costumed characters.

“the breakfast club” (10am saturday mornings at Mars Hill Church)

Breakfast, prayer and fellowship, preparing our church for worship the following day. Contact jay@marshallchurch.org for more details.

also in may & early june

men’s advance

May 27 - May 29
See announcements for more details!

children’s ministry

Jericho Junction is holding audtions for openings on next years schedule contact Tami to sign up!

May 22nd

Jericho Junction Audtions
See announcements for more details!
Tami McKinley - tami@marshallchurch.org

covenant ministry

For more info e-mail covenant@marshallchurch.org or go to www.marshallchurch.org/covenant

May 6 - Eastside Bowling Night

May 13 - Covenant Event - Trivia Night

May 20 - Seattle Bowling Night

May 25 - Wine Tasting

May 28 - Day Hike Issaquah Alps

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
may 1 Sunday Services Capstone Classes Women's Training Camp	2	3	4 Gospel Class Capstone Classes [proxy] Jericho Junction	5	6 Covenant Eastside Bowling MH Outdoors Kayaking Paradox Concert The Western States	7 The Breakfast Club
8 Sunday Services Capstone Classes	9	10	11 Gospel Class Capstone Classes [proxy] Jericho Junction	12	13 Covenant Trivia Night MH Outdoors Climbing Rafting	14 The Breakfast Club MH Outdoors Climbing Rafting
15 Sunday Services Capstone Classes MH Outdoors Climbing Rafting	16	17	18 Gospel Class Capstone Classes [proxy] Jericho Junction	19	20 Covenant Seattle Bowling Film and Theology The Village MH Outdoors Hike	21 The Breakfast Club
22 Sunday Services Capstone Classes Children's Ministry JJ Audtition	23	24	25 Gospel Class Capstone Classes [proxy] Jericho Junction Covenant Event Wine Tasting Class	26	27 Paradox Concert Lahar, Sinking Ships, Murdock, Shook Ones Men's Advance	28 The Breakfast Club Covenant Day Hike Men's Advance
29 Sunday Services Capstone Classes Men's Advance	30	31	june 1 Gospel Class Capstone Classes [proxy] Jericho Junction	2	3	4 The Breakfast Club MH Outdoors Mountain Biking
5 Sunday Services Capstone Classes	6	7	8 Gospel Class Capstone Classes [proxy] Jericho Junction	9	10	11 The Breakfast Club MH Outdoors Climbing

mars hill outdoors

contact each event leader for details on these and other outdoor events! you can get all the details for our upcoming events by visiting the outdoors information kiosk in the connect center

May 6

Kayaking, Sammamish Slough!
Jeannie Fleming - jeannef1@comcast.net
Thom Booth - thombooth@emsoln.com

May 13-15

Climbing Rafting, Smith Rock
Jim Mallory - jrmallory@hotmail.com

May 20

Hike, Surprise Creek
Brandon Talley - btalley@spu.edu

June 4

Mountain Biking, St. Edwards/Big Finn Hill
Brandon Talley - btalley@spu.edu

June 11

Climbing, Mt. Erie
Nancyjean Tripp - jersey_climbgirl@yahoo.com

film and theology (monthly)

May 20, 6:45 “The Village”

The population of a small, isolated countryside village believe that their alliance with the mythical creatures that inhabit the forest around them, is coming to an end. Join Mars Hill Pastors as they discuss how this film exposes issues of sin and religion.

paradox concerts (Always All Ages)

We’re pleased to offer Mars Hill facilities as a very practical, hospitable outreach to our local music scene. Check out www.theparadox.org for more information on concerts.

May 6, 8p - Cost: \$7

Bands: The Western States, Matthew Shaw, Dear Darling & more...

May 27, 7p - Cost: FREE!

Bands: Lahar, Sinking Ships, Murdock, Shook Ones